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Lord LINDSAY, M.P., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Rev. Abraham Smith, Collegiate School, Huddersfield ;
and

Lewis Swift, Esq., Rochester, New York, U.S.;

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The President addressed the Meeting :—

“I deeply regret having to announce to the Society the news of the death of Mons. Edmond de Chazal, of St. Antoine, Mauritius. In bringing before your notice the decease of a gentleman who was not a Fellow of the Society, I may be, strictly speaking, out of order; but I feel sure that I shall be pardoned by the Society for recording publicly our feelings. I do not wish to speak of Mons. de Chazal as a personal friend for whom I held the highest esteem, but rather as a citizen of the world, who, mindful of the difficulties found in discussing the observations of the transits of *Venus* last century, owing to the uncertainty of the exact localities of the observers, placed in the hands of Her Majesty's Government a deed conveying to it the site of the Observatory I raised in the island.

“The interest he took in my work was only equalled by his tender kindness during my illness.”

*Extract from a Letter from Professor Asaph Hall to the
Astronomer Royal.*

I am glad to see, in the *Monthly Notices* of December 1878, your Note on the mass of *Mars*. Although the volume containing your paper has stood within a few feet of me for several years, I missed it in looking up the authorities on this question. The recent Note of Mr. Dunkin on the Tables of *Saturn* by Le Verrier

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is interesting. My observations of the satellites of this planet are not yet discussed, but they indicate that Bessel's value of the mass of *Saturn* is nearly correct. I think that Le Verrier made some error in the perturbations of *Jupiter* and *Saturn*, by which he got some of his coefficients too large, and then, in adjusting his theory to fit the observations, he was led to diminish the mass of *Saturn*. Mr. G. W. Hill is at work on the complicated theory of *Jupiter* and *Saturn*, and in the course of two or three years we may expect his results.

In the theory of *Hyperion* I think that I have got hold of an interesting motion of the line of apsides; the observations of this satellite hitherto made are so clustered about the elongations that the elements remain somewhat uncertain, but after two years I shall be able to follow all around the planet this faint object.

Naval Observatory, Washington,
1879, February 18.

An apparently New Variable Star. By J. L. E. Dreyer, Esq.

On March 8, when observing the red star Schj. 109 (Lal. 16770 = Weisse I, $8^h.625 =$ Schj. 3122), I remarked a very conspicuous star of the 9.0 mag. *n.p.* it, which is not in the *Durchmusterung* nor in Bond's *Zones* 46 and 47, while it occurs in zone 48 as a * 11 mag. As the Harvard *Zones* contain stars down to the 12-13 mag. (except in very crowded places, of which this is not one) or on Argelander's scale to about the 11th mag., the star *n.p.* the red one appears to be variable. It is $16^s.7$ *p.* and $103''.0$ *n.* of Schj. 109, its position being for 1855

$$\begin{array}{rcll} & h & m & s \\ & 8 & 23 & 56.3 \\ & & & + 0 \quad 20.3. \end{array}$$

The only place where I have found this star mentioned, besides Harvard Zone 48, is the Munich Catalogue of Stars, between $+3^\circ$ and -3° Decl., where it is stated to be of the 10th mag., and the star *s.f.* of the 9th. The latter is of the 8.5 mag. in the *Durchmusterung*.

The Observatory, Dunsink,
April 1879.

Observations of Absorbing Vapours upon the Sun.

By Professor E. Leopold Trouvelot.

In a letter published in vol. xxxiii., page 63, of the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, November 1872, Mr. Chacornac gives an account of an interesting observation of his, entitled, "On a Volcanic Appearance in the Sun." Although I do not fully understand what Mr. Chacornac means